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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00815 202206Z

62
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
---------- 095438
Z O 202148Z MAY 74
FM USINT DAMASCUS
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 596
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0815

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: VOA NEWSCAST ON CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS

ON BOTH ENGLISH AND ARABIC VOA NEWSCAST LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING (MAY 20 AND MAY 21), ANNOUNCER, CITED JERUSALEM AND BEIRUT PRESS AND PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS ON CURRENT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS:

A. RETURN OF ALL TERRITORY CAPTURED IN OCTOBER WAR AND SOME LAND SEIZED DURING '67 WAR. TERRIROTY SAID TO INCLUDE KUNEITRA AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL LANDS. SYRIAN SETTLERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO UN-ADMINISTERED BUFFER ZONE SET UP BETWEEN THE TWO ARMIES. MUCH FOUGHT-OVER MOUNT HERMON WILL BE PLACED UNDER UNITED NATIONS CONTROL.

B. PRESIDENT NIXON WAS SAID TO BE PLEASED BY PROGRESS MADE TOWARD DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND INSTRUCTED SECRETARY TO STAY IN AREA AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE WORK. COMMENT: I DO NOT THINK THAT THE ABOVE STORY IS HELPFUL IN DAMASCUS, WHERE THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT IS STILL OBVIOUSLY CONTROLLING NEWS ABOUT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND PARTICULARLY DETAILS OF THESE TALKS. EVEN THOUGH THE VOA NEWSCASTER CITED BEIRUT AND JERUSALEM NEWSPAPERS AS THE SOURCES FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ABOVE INFORMATION, IN THE MINDS OF THE SYRIANS THE

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FACT THAT THE STORY IS CARRIED OVER VOA, WHICH IS
CONSIDERED TO BE AN OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT, CONFIRMS THE STORY.
SCOTES

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